



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeffrey D. Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bob Gough
Phone: 217-685-4454

Linda L. Gonulsen
Phone: 217.558.1237

Unemployment Rate Drops in All Metro Areas

Jobs increase in six metro areas

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2016	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.6%	5.0%	-1.4
Carbondale-Marion	4.3%	5.6%	-1.3
Champaign-Urbana	3.8%	4.8%	-1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.8%	5.6%	-0.8
Danville	5.9%	7.1%	-1.2
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.3%	5.5%	-1.2
Decatur	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Elgin	4.1%	5.1%	-1.0
Kankakee	4.7%	6.1%	-1.4
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.8%	4.8%	-1.0
Peoria	4.7%	6.2%	-1.5
Rockford	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Springfield	3.9%	4.6%	-0.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.3%	5.7%	-1.4
Illinois Statewide	4.6%	5.6%	-1.0
* Data subject to revision.			

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in September in all of Illinois's metropolitan areas and in all 102 counties, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Data also show nonfarm jobs increased in six of the metropolitan areas and decreased in eight.

“Seeing the rates drop across the board in all 102 counties is certainly encouraging,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “But the job growth in the Chicago Metro Area, while it has carried the state during this past year, still lags behind the growth in neighboring states.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in six metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+2.3 percent, +1,000), Carbondale-Marion (+2.0 percent, +1,200), and Bloomington (+1.5 percent, +1,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.3 percent or +11,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas, with the largest losses in: Danville (-1.1 percent, -300), Elgin (-0.7 percent, -1,900), Rockford (-0.5 percent, -700), and Champaign (-0.5 percent, -500).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas included Mining and Construction (10 of 14), Education and Health Services (8 of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (8 of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares September 2017 with September 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.6 percent in September 2017 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in September 2017 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – September 2017

Metropolitan Area	September 2017*	September 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,100	93,700	1,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	60,000	58,800	1,200
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,500	111,000	-500
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,745,800	3,734,700	11,100
Danville MSA	28,200	28,500	-300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	183,800	183,900	-100
Decatur MSA	51,300	51,400	-100
Elgin Metro Division	256,100	258,000	-1,900
Kankakee MSA	45,400	44,400	1,000
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,100	413,900	5,200
Peoria MSA	175,600	176,100	-500
Rockford MSA	151,000	151,700	-700
Springfield MSA	115,900	116,400	-500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	240,000	238,700	1,300
Illinois Statewide	6,069,300	6,057,000	12,300
*Preliminary **Revised			

(continued)



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2016	Over- the-Year Change
Decatur MSA			
Macon County	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Springfield MSA			
Menard County	3.5%	4.3%	-0.8
Sangamon County	3.9%	4.7%	-0.8
Cities			
Decatur City	5.8%	7.3%	-1.5
Quincy City	3.9%	5.0%	-1.1
Springfield City	4.2%	5.1%	-0.9
Counties			
Adams County	3.7%	4.8%	-1.1
Brown County	2.7%	3.2%	-0.5
Calhoun County	4.7%	5.8%	-1.1
Cass County	4.0%	5.2%	-1.2
Christian County	4.7%	5.9%	-1.2
DeWitt County	3.9%	5.4%	-1.5
Greene County	4.6%	5.6%	-1.0
Jersey County	4.2%	5.7%	-1.5
Logan County	3.9%	5.0%	-1.1
McDonough County	4.1%	5.6%	-1.5
Macoupin County	4.4%	5.6%	-1.2
Montgomery County	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Morgan County	3.9%	4.7%	-0.8
Moultrie County	3.4%	4.5%	-1.1
Piatt County	3.5%	4.8%	-1.3
Pike County	3.6%	4.8%	-1.2
Schuyler County	3.6%	5.2%	-1.6
Scott County	4.0%	4.6%	-0.6
Shelby County	4.0%	5.5%	-1.5
Other Areas			
LWA 19	4.9%	6.3%	-1.4
LWA 20	3.9%	4.8%	-0.9
LWA 21	4.3%	5.5%	-1.2
Central EDR	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0

Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 5,500 positions in September and approximately 83 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Decatur MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.1 percent in September 2017 from 6.5 percent in September 2016. There were an estimated 2,500 unemployed people in the labor force in September 2017.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in the Decatur metro area decreased by (-100) compared to one year ago. Payrolls increased in Construction (+100) and Educational & Health Services (+100). Leisure & Hospitality, Other Services, and Information each declined by (-100). All other major industry sectors were stable compared to last year.

Springfield MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.9 percent in September 2017 from 4.6 percent in September 2016. There were an estimated 4,300 unemployed people in the labor force in September 2017.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in the Springfield metro area decreased by (-500) compared to a year ago. Payroll increases were reported in Professional & Business Services (+400), Construction (+200), Wholesale Trade (+100), and Manufacturing (+100). Declines were reported in Leisure & Hospitality (-400), Retail Trade (-300), Educational & Health Services (-200), Government (-200), while Information, and Financial Activities each declined by (-100). All other major industry sectors were stable compared to last year.

Note:

Monthly 2016 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2017, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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